

THE
Sabbath-day Saints' Millennial Star.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.—Jesus Christ.

Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.—A Voice from Heaven.

No. 18, Vol. XVIII.

Saturday, May 3, 1856.

Price One Penny.

Returned Missionaries' Party.

HELD IN THE SOCIAL HALL, GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY.

(From the "Deseret News.")

Tuesday, Nov. 2^d, 1855.

At 5 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Seth M. Blair, manager *pro. tem.*, and opened by prayer from Milo Andrus.

There was present of the First Presidency of the Church, Jedediah M. Grant, who arrived after the dancing commenced, and managed the proceedings of the party.

Presidents Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball were not in attendance in consequence of indisposition, also Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop.

Of the Twelve Apostles, Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Ezra T. Benson, Wilford Woodruff, and George A. Smith were present.

Besides, between fifty and sixty others, returned missionaries.

President Grant said, he expected the missionaries would all dance, and dispense with the necessity of calling upon them by number; and those missionaries that cannot dance, and do not try, we shall consider have not fulfilled their missions this evening. He then led off in the dance, which he executed in right good earnest. The whole company caught the electric spark, and "good earnest" characterized the exercises of the evening.

The hall was beautifully lighted by two

large chandeliers hung from the ceiling. On the west wall was suspended two profile likenesses, life size, executed in oil, of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. They were painted in Nauvoo, by David Rogers of New York, in the year 1842, are the property of President B. Young, and are the truest delineations of the features of those distinguished individuals in existence. The north and south walls were decorated with various paintings in oil, and some copper and steel plate executions. The drapery of the curtains, and the disposition of articles of furniture in the room, gave it a comfortable and imposing appearance.

After their hardships and toil, hunger and thirst, narrow escapes and weariness, and suffering the abuses of this inhospitable world, the returned missionaries felt good to breathe in security the air of comfort around them, and to inhale the spirit of welcome that Brigham, our great leader and common father, gave to them on their return.

After the company had exercised in dancing for some time, Elder William Willes, returned missionary from India, was introduced by the manager to sing, "The Hive of Deseret," composed by himself. The composition and the manner in

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which it was sung had an enchanting influence. We felt like bees in autumn, far from the hive, striving and longing to gain the warm, hospitable, and secure shelter of home. With the last words of the song, the hallucination passed off, and we found ourselves at home with our wives, and children, and friends, ready to engage in the dance.

At seven o'clock supper was announced, when the company repaired to the basement story, where they partook of a substantial repast. None went from the hospitable board dissatisfied; the tea and the coffee were excellent, there was plenty of sugar to sweeten with, and no draining of cream jugs, for there seemed to be a perfect flow of milk, and not honey, but good tea and coffee.

It is not my design to give you a full list of the substantial we partook of, I need only say they were well prepared and in abundance. The hand that provided them is a liberal one, and every soul blessed it.

As to the style in which the supper was served up, and the tables set out, I need only say that Mr. William. C. Staines superintended the arrangements.

After supper the dancing again commenced, which continued for some time, when songs were sung by W. Willes and sister P. P. Pratt.

When the evening was well advanced, and the party had exercised themselves much in the dance, President Grant addressed the returned missionaries as follows—

I had anticipated that President Young would have been with us to-night, and also President Kimball; that we would have had the privilege of listening to their instructions, and of receiving at least their welcome blessing upon the heads of these my brethren and sisters.

It is in consequence of indisposition they are not with us.

I will say to the missionaries returned, you are welcome. The prayers of your brethren you have had; you have had their united faith. When assembled in their prayer circles they have importuned the Almighty in your behalf.

You have had the faith of the Quorum of the Twelve, being one always with the First Presidency; you have had the faith of all the concentrated authorities in this capital of the Saints of God in the last days.

You have returned home where our blessing of welcome meets you; and when we bless you it extends also to your wives and children, and to all you inherit, and they inherit what you inherit, your increase is their increase; your extension is their extension; and your circle and circumference is theirs; your heaven is theirs, your enjoyment is theirs, and all your estate, and dominion, and all the Almighty has, or may bestow upon you in this or in the next state of being is theirs. Your families are immediately and jointly associated with you, and do and will forever partake of all your blessings, and of all you possess.

You have travelled much over this wide world; some of you have crossed the briny deep to different climes and zones of the earth. You have been tried; your lives have been jeopardized often. You have been in situations where nothing but the power of God could sustain and deliver you. You have felt to trust in God. And the feelings of your brethren that preside over you are that you have done well, you have done your duty; you have travelled and preached the Gospel, and kept yourselves pure, and have come home with God's Spirit upon you.

And all the Elders from abroad, who were never here before, that have laboured conjointly with you in different parts of the world, who have bid adieu to their native land to preach the Gospel to others, and to come to Zion, they are also welcome, they share our blessing with you who went from here. They have been blessed through the same fountain that has flowed to bless you.

You are here in these valleys bequeathed to us by the God of our fathers, for which we should be thankful. We can go forth in the dance, and our hearts are made glad. But these are pastimes, toys for children. The primary object we have in view is to build up the kingdom of God. This should engross our thoughts continually, at home and abroad. It should engage our talents and exertions here as elsewhere. You should not bury your talents when at home, but exert yourselves to sow the seeds of righteousness and immortality in the hearts of the Saints, the principles that have inspired you while you were abroad preaching the Gospel, which were revealed by holy Prophets, sent from heaven by angels, and preached by Prophets and Apostles. You

should exert yourselves to throw around them that favoured influence you enjoy, for their growth in righteousness and sanctification, and to prepare them for the great things that await us all.

For great things await us, not merely in theory, but in reality. Have not the Saints of God—the kingdom of God—to grapple with, not only towns, cities, and nations, but with the world? Yea, more, it has to cope with the universe, and give life and light to it, as well as to this lower creation.

There can only be one Adam, and that is the ruling power. That man who holds the keys of the kingdom of God on earth—that man is the Adam of the earth, he is God's mouthpiece, His presiding officer, and the only man who has the legal right to preside, and to turn the key of power, the key of life and death, and hold forth the sceptre of righteousness to the nations.

We live in the city where the keys of the kingdom of God are, where the choicest blessings of the Almighty are. And from this place, from this Territory, from these mountains, and from those keys I have alluded to, salvation has gone through you to all nations, and must through you and others go to every land and clime.

The relationship you sustain to your brethren who preside over you, to the Church of God, to the world, to the heavens, to your God, and all the Gods that surround Him, to the Prophets, and to all the Saints that dwell in the eternal worlds, is the reason why we regard ourselves thus, and have so great a work to perform.

We are led to reflect, while we rejoice at your return home, that some of our missionaries who went from here at the same time you went, have been called to another field of action, they have emigrated to another world. Brother Orson Spencer is among that number. He has departed from this life. He died in St. Louis. After the fever had left him, he gradually declined until he fell asleep. With his surviving friends—with his family we deeply sympathize; also with others who are clad in mourning. But we do not mourn for them as for those who apostatize and die without hope.

May the God of heaven bless you; may His Spirit dwell with you, and with your families, and remain with you and with them; that you may go and return, meet and part, and continually be blessed.

Whatever you do, keep the Spirit of God with you, that you may be blessed. And by all the authority and right given to me under the hands of the Prophet Joseph, and the ordinations I have received from under the hands of our present Prophet, and from those that were ordained by Peter, James, and John; and by the light of the Holy Ghost in me, I bless you all in the name of Jesus Christ; and may the laurels you have entwined around your brows remain there untarnished forever. May your families be blessed from generation to generation; and may the increase of heaven be upon them; may they be like Ephraim and Manasseh—breaking forth on the right and on the left until they cannot be numbered for multitude. And if you have not brought your thousands with you from the nations to swell the concourse of Saints in Zion, may you increase until you are like the sands of the sea, and the stars in the firmament for number. May the blessings of Joseph, of Brigham and Heber, and all the Priesthood of God be and abide with you from this time henceforth and forever. Amen.

Parley P. Pratt then said—

I say amen to what has been said by President Grant, and acquiesce with the blessings he has pronounced upon you with all my heart.

I feel inclined to offer a few reflections.

I have had peculiar feelings in this assembly while meeting with many with whom I have associated during the past year on the western coast, where they were labouring in conjunction with myself; where they were concentrated with me from the distant islands of the sea, and far off continents of the earth. Not only this, but I have been privileged to mingle and renew my acquaintance with persons from almost every nation and clime upon the globe, that have been out ministering the Gospel, and have returned for the first time to this place.

I have beheld them, contemplated them, rejoiced in the light of their countenances this evening, and felt happy with them, and the beloved members of their families. And I have reflected on the difference of an assemblage of this kind enjoying themselves as we have in the feast, and in the dance, with songs, and with music, when compared with similar doings among the children of men abroad in their promiscuous assemblies. And I have thought that if there was a person, or an assem-

blage of persons on the earth, who have good reasons to come together and feast, and rejoice in the name of the Lord, and have a right so to do, it is these very persons, male and female, I have beheld together this night. It is the sisters who have cheerfully, and without a murmur, and even joyfully consented to part with their husbands, with those that are the dearest to them of all things on earth, to part with them for months, and even for long years. While mountains, deserts, and continents have intervened, and oceans have rolled between, they have passed dreary years in loneliness and as widows; while their husbands, for the Gospel's sake, wandered far away in strange lands, and among strangers of another tongue, depriving themselves of the darling scenes around their own firesides, and from everything on earth they held most dear; crossing deserts, climbing mountains, ranging the islands of the sea, and distant continents, among pestilence and famine, war and distress of nations. I say, who should rejoice in the dance? Who should go forth and associate together with joy and thanksgiving to the God of Israel, with music, and feasting, and joyfulness of heart, if it is not these, my brethren and sisters?

And while we feel to mourn and sympathize with those who have lost their husbands and fathers while on foreign missions; while we feel to mourn for ourselves that we are left without their society, yet we feel to say it is well with them. They have laid down their lives in a good cause, and a crown of glory awaits them. If we mourn, it is for their absence, and not that they have lost anything. If we mourn, it is because we have suffered the loss of their society. But we sorrow not as those without hope.

While I feel more than I can express towards these my brethren and sisters; while I feel a heart full of gratitude and love towards our First Presidency for opening the way for this enjoyment, we can only say it is not complete because they are not all with us.

I would express one wish in behalf of myself and my brother missionaries, which is, that we may all be found as ready to part with our wives or husbands, for the Gospel's sake, as we have to come here and associate with them in the feast, and in the dance.

If we do this, and do it faithfully, and

with all our hearts, we shall be counted worthy from time to time to mingle together as occasion may require, and associate with angels and the spirits of just men made perfect.

I trust the day is not far distant when we shall be privileged to assemble in heavenly places, where there is no veil between us and those who have passed into the eternal worlds, and meet among the assemblies of the sanctified.

May God bless you, I cannot pronounce more than my brother has done; but I say, may God bless you with all the blessings he has expressed, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

George A. Smith spoke—

I have been highly delighted with the enjoyment of your society this evening, and also in listening to the blessings which have been pronounced upon your heads.

I am very grateful for the privilege of beholding your faces. I have read in the Old Scriptures when a boy, that the Lord would have fishers and hunters in the last days, who should fish and hunt for the house of Israel throughout the earth, in every hole and corner thereof; but I never dreamed that I should see the day, that I should actually attend a splendid party of those fishers of men the old Prophet referred to, after their return home from their hunting and fishing excursions.

It is a new thing to me to enjoy a privilege like this, although I have been connected with the Church from boyhood.

I know the Lord has called you to fill a high and responsible calling; and you have travelled with the Gospel to those who are a wicked and an adulterous generation; yet in the great day of accounts you will find your reward in the fruits of your missions, as bread that has been cast upon the water, and gathered after many days.

In the great day when God shall make up His jewels, you will find to the fullest extent the blessings that have been pronounced upon your heads. And by the missions you have fulfilled, and the sacrifices you have made, you have not only secured to yourselves imperishable laurels that will be as crowns of glory on your heads; but you have planted the seed that will continue to swell, to grow, and increase until it shall overcome every institution that is not of God.

However small may be your missions in your own estimation, or in the estimation of others, they are nevertheless mighty in

the overthrow of the wicked institutions of men.

Ezra T. Benson spoke—

As I have the privilege I wish to express my feelings in connexion with my brethren.

While President Grant was speaking and invoking the blessing of God upon your heads, the reflection ran through my mind—are these my brethren and sisters? Are they the chosen of God? Yes. Are they worthy of the blessings that have been pronounced upon them? Yes. Their works have proved it to the Almighty, and to His servants.

Then how happy we ought to be, and how thankful, as Saints of the Most High, that we are here in the valleys of the mountains, far away from mobocracy, and from Gentile oppression, where we can worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience, none daring to molest or make us afraid.

Here we can do as we please, that is, if we do just right. Do we not feel this evening that heaven smiles upon us? Is there an individual present that does not feel the still whisperings of the Holy Spirit, that speaks peace to the souls of the children of men? No, not one that is acquainted with "Mormonism," and whose intentions are pure before God. Then how thankful we ought to be.

When I beheld my brethren feasting together to-night, I thought what a change this is to them, when compared with their varied circumstances in which they were placed among the benighted nations where they have recently travelled. There is not one of my brethren of the returned missionaries, I dare venture to say, but have felt, while out in the world preaching the Gospel in distant lands, that they would give all their earthly possessions could they be placed in like circumstances they enjoy this evening; could they have done it, and at the same time do justice to themselves, to the work in which they were engaged, to their brethren, and to their God. I have felt so when abroad preaching the Gospel, and I expect to feel so again.

The grand object is to appreciate the blessings we enjoy to night. Sisters, do you appreciate your blessings to night in the society of your companions? Think of the time you have been melted down in tears when they were absent from you, and you knew not, but that the cholera

and devastation would take them before you would again see them in the flesh.

I say, let our hearts be raised to the Most High in gratitude. And as the heart of one man, when we return from this place, invoke the blessings of God on our Presidency, whose feelings are so kind as to grant us this privilege of enjoying ourselves together, and of partaking of their hospitality; and may we always be prepared to do their will, which is the will of God. Even so, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Orson Pratt spoke—

Brethren of the missionaries that are now before me, I arise in connexion with the rest of my brethren who have spoken, to congratulate you upon your return to the bosoms of your families in these peaceful valleys, after having fulfilled your missions upon which you were sent by the voice of the Conference, and by the First Presidency of the Church.

I see among my brethren who sit before me, those who three years ago crossed the plains with me on their missions to England, and to the various nations of the earth. They have gone forth, leaving their families, leaving the society of the Saints, their houses, lands, flocks and herds, for the Gospel's sake, to preach it, and to bear testimony of the great events about to take place upon the earth.

What will be your reward, brethren of the missionaries? Do you suppose that we have language to portray before you that amount of reward in store for you, if you still continue faithful? No, we have not. We can merely say to you so far as the Lord has promised pertaining to this life, but when you reach into the future, mortal tongue is unable to express that which will be bestowed upon you for these labours you have performed.

So far as this earth is concerned you have a right to claim the promise he has made to those who forsake fathers and mothers, wives and children, houses and lands, flocks and herds, and the good things of this earth, for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel of peace to the nations of the world. You can claim an hundred fold, for this is the promise of our Saviour to you in this life; a hundred fold of riches, of honours, &c.; I mean heavenly honours, I mean the riches that God intends to bestow upon His people, and upon you if you lay hold upon them. Brethren of the returned missionaries, be

faithful and you shall have them, in the name of the Lord I say you shall have them.

And everything you set your hands to perform in the name of the Lord, it shall prosper. You shall be prospered in building, in planting, and in sowing, you shall be prospered in every lawful undertaking; and the Lord will multiply a multiplicity of blessings upon you of an earthly nature. I will not attempt to express all the blessings that are sure to come upon you in eternity if you remain faithful.

I rejoice with you, my heart is glad, I have been a missionary with you, although permitted in the kind providence of God to return sooner than many of you have; yet I feel that I am a missionary still; that I am in the hands of the Lord to go whithersoever He will. These are the feelings of my heart, to go and come wherever and whenever the Lord shall see proper by His servants to appoint me from this time henceforth, so long as I remain here upon the earth.

I believe these also are the feelings of your hearts. I presume there is not one before me, if the word should come from the President of our Church this evening, for them to undertake a foreign mission to the ends of the earth, but would be on hand to go forthwith, with all their hearts, to accomplish, and fulfil the will of the Lord.

Will the heavens withhold blessings from those who are thus willing? No. Is the period at a great distance in which the vail shall be rent, and you shall have the privilege of enjoying greater and greater, and far more exquisite joys and blessings than we have heretofore received? No, the time is not far distant when we shall be made partakers to greater powers, glories and blessings; the Lord our God will strengthen us according as His great purposes are about to be accomplished on the earth, and His arm will be made bare, more and more, and in greater and greater power.

You have been faithful on this mission, and if you continue to be faithful you will find that God will multiply an hundred fold, not only of temporal blessings but of spiritual blessings.

I feel to sustain, and to say amen with all my heart to every blessing that has been pronounced upon you by President Grant, and the brethren that have spoken before me.

Brethren of the returned missionaries, may the Lord bless you, and your wives and children, that you may be as fruitful trees by the side of rivers of water, bringing forth abundance of rich and choice fruit. And may your names be perpetuated, and handed down to the latest generations; may your sons hold the everlasting Priesthood, both in time and in eternity, and be men of God, men of faith and righteousness, and be prepared to carry out the great and righteous purposes of God in the last days. May all these blessings come upon you and yours, which I ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A comic song was next sung by William Willes.

Seth M. Blair next spoke—

Brethren and sisters; I hold in my hand a resolution to offer which I purpose doing. At the same time having the privilege, I also desire to express my feelings in part on the present interesting occasion. They are mingled always with the same spirit that actuates my brethren that have spoken before me this evening.

I am filled with joy and gladness, as brother Grant has said; I like a variety, and in the way of expressing my feelings, I will relate a little anecdote.

Down in the southern country where I lived, where the coon, and possum, and old Uncle Ned lives; Ned's Massa declared if he did not find the iron wedge he had lost he would whip him. Old Ned was in a peck of trouble; at last he found it however, and he ran to his master, saying, massa, massa, I have found the iron wedge, and I feel so good, I am glad I lost it.

That is the way I feel; I am so glad I have returned from my mission.

I could not in distant lands appreciate the blessings we have this evening had the privilege of enjoying. I have dwelt in the midst of those who hold the Priesthood of God, in common with ourselves, or I had not learned to appreciate the blessings and favours of these men, the servants of the Most High Lord.

When in distant lands I had time and opportunity to compare "Mormonism" with the present religions of Christendom. This practice of sober thought caused me to lose in a great degree, my former jocular spirit, that many of my friends acquainted with me have been possibly too much troubled with. This evening is one

of joy to me, mingled with grief. My heart has rejoiced at what has been seen and said this evening, and it says amen to the blessings which have been pronounced upon the returned missionaries; with whom it is an exquisite pleasure for me to strike hands, in this city, in the midst of Zion, in peace, love, harmony, and good will. I have met them in distant lands. I have seen when the shafts of death were hurled in our ranks and many fell before them. I have seen many of these, my brethren, surrounded with everything that was calculated to try the hearts and reins of men.

But let me bear this testimony to you if indeed it is needful, they were the same in life, and in death.

It pained my heart to hear our highly esteemed friend, brother Spencer, was dead. I loved him; he was a man of God if I had the spirit to judge. I loved him and others too, upon whose graves I have seen the green sod turned.

That scene is passed, and we are here in safety; and the feelings of grief vanish away, when I see that we as missionaries returned, are greeted with welcome, "welcome home ye servants of the Lord," by those who hold the keys of the Priesthood in Zion.

It was for this we laboured faithfully in foreign lands, that we might return pure, and without spot, and be taken by the hand by our superiors, saying, well done good and faithful servants.

Actuated by these feelings, I offer the following resolution—

That we, as Elders of Israel, tender to President Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, and Jedediah M. Grant, the thanks and grateful acknowledgments of our hearts, for this token of their favour and kind feelings towards us; in the privilege of the enjoyment of the sumptuous repast, and delightful entertainment of this evening as returned missionaries—with the sincere desire and hope that when our services are again called for, we may

most cheerfully respond to the call, and continue to do the will of our God, and keep the favour, and merit the blessings of His servants to our lives end.

This resolution was responded to unanimously.

Dancing again commenced, which continued until 11 o'clock, when President Grant requested the company to repair to the dining room to take refreshments.

Dancing commenced again in such good earnest, and in such good order, that it really seemed that dancing and feasting were the only end of man. There was no weariness in limb or joint; no dark forebodings of to-morrow; contented joy radiated round every countenance and I think I never saw the daughters of Zion look more lovely, because they were contented and happy. Could they always be so they would indeed be angels of our presence.

Erastus Snow sung, "Wife, children and friends."

It was now advancing towards "The wee bit hour ayont the twal," when President Grant said—

I hope and pray that we may enjoy many times like the present; and that peace and union, and blessings may attend us from this time henceforth and forever. Amen.

Orson Pratt was called upon to dismiss the meeting, which he did by returning thanks to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for His favours.

This is the first party of the sort that has ever been given since the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized. The influence it has exercised upon those present will never be forgotten; and the history of it no doubt will be deeply interesting to missionaries abroad, and be a powerful stimulant in them, to be true to their trust, unshaken in their integrity, and faithful to their brethren and to their God, that they may be greeted with the welcome, and the blessings of the returned missionaries of 1855.

G. D. WATT, Reporter.

CURIOUS CALCULATION.—What a noisy creature would a man be were his voice, in proportion to his weight, as loud as that of a locust! A locust can be heard at the distance of 1-16th of a mile. The golden wren is said to weigh but half-an-ounce, so that a middling sized man would weigh down not short of 4,000 of them; and it must be strange if a golden wren would not outweigh four of our locusts. Supposing, therefore, that a common man weighed as much as 16,000 of our locusts, and the note of a locust can be heard 1-16th of a mile, a man of common dimensions, pretty sound in wind and limb, ought to be able to make himself heard at a distance of 1,000 miles.

History of Joseph Smith.

(Continued from page 264.)

[December, 1840.]

Sunday, Dec. 20th. I was called upon by the High Council to decide the adjourned case of Robert D. Foster. Having heard the witnesses, I decided that he be acquitted of the charges against him, which decision the Council approved.

"Your preacher preaches false doctrine," exclaimed a sectarian in Manchester to one of the Saints. "Ah!" inquired the other, "wherein does he preach false doctrine?" "Why, in telling the people to go to America to be sure," said the sectarian; "and," continued he, "there is nothing in the Bible that commands people to go to America." "Ah!" replied the other, "and there is nothing in the Bible which commands people to stop in Manchester; so I wonder how you dare stay in so unscriptural a place another night; for certainly no one ought to live in England unless they can find scripture for it, any more than in America."

This is a fair specimen of the wisdom of the nineteenth century that opposes itself to the work of the Most High God.

Monday, 21st. The petition of Elias Higbee, and Robert B. Thompson, under date of 28th November, 1840, was presented to the House of Representatives of the United States, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

Friday, 25th. Elders B. Young, and George A. Smith attended a Conference at Hanley, Staffordshire Potteries, which represented an increase of 6 Elders, 26 Priests, 10 Teachers, 9 Deacons, and 356 members, since last July Conference; and also ordained 6 Elders, 6 Priests, 4 Teachers, and 3 Deacons.

Sunday, 27th. Elders Kimball and Woodruff occupied a chapel belonging to the Independents in London. Elder Woodruff preached.

Monday, 28th. There are ninety-five Saints in Edinburgh, Scotland, raised up by Elder Orson Pratt. Elder George D. Watt is now labouring in that place.

Wednesday, 30th. Elder Young writes from Liverpool—

Beloved Brother—I write to inform you of a few particulars of my journey to London. I left Manchester Nov. 25th, in company with Elder Kimball; we visited the following places, viz., Macclesfield, Hurlem, Hanley, Lane End, West Bromwich, and Birmingham. We travelled by coach and railway, and arrived in London on Monday the 30th: found Elder Woodruff in good health. He had baptized three or four persons the day before we arrived. I stayed in London till the 11th December, when I left for Herefordshire. Brothers Woodruff and Williams came with me to the railway station. Elder Kimball staid in London.

The prospect for the spread of the Gospel brightened up while we were there. Our feelings were very clear and decisive that Elder Kimball had better stay with Elder Woodruff. I was much interested while there with my brethren. I pray the Lord to roll on His work in that great city. Tell much for the people in that place! yea, my feelings are exquisite, for why, God knows; but I believe it is for the glory of God, and the good of souls. May His name be glorified.

I arrived in Cheltenham the same day I left London—only about 7½ hours going 101 miles, 38 of it by coach. I stayed over the Sabbath there; preached twice to a very attentive congregation. In the afternoon the house was full to overflowing. Elder Henry Glover is preaching in this place, and in the regions round with much success. I think he is a humble, good man, and will do much good.

I attended the Gadfield Elm Conference. The minutes of the Garway Conference were read, which had been held on the 8th. After this I visited the brethren till the Stanley Hill Conference, which was held on the 21st. The Church in Garway numbers 95 members, 1 Elder, 7 Priests, 3 Teachers, and 1 Deacon. At the Gadfield Elm Conference there were 17 Branches represented, 327 members, 13 Elders, 31 Priests, 9 Teachers. The Stanley Hill Conference contains 25 Branches, which represented 839 members, 17 Elders, 57 Priests, 16 Teachers, and 1 Deacon. Including officers, there are in these three Conferences 1261 members, 31 Elders, 95 Priests, 28 Teachers, and 2 Deacons; making 235 added since the October Conference.

I attended the Conference in the Stafford-

shire Potteries on the 25th; we had a good meeting; but I have not the minutes before me, so I cannot give a particular statement of the Church there, but I can say, they are prospering.

In my travels, and at the Conferences, there were some baptized, and many ordained. We can say, truly the Lord is doing a

great work in the land. The Gospel is preached to the poor, and signs follow them that believe. I arrived in Liverpool last evening, and expect to tarry here till the Book of Mormon is completed.

I am, as ever, your brother in the Kingdom of Patience,

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

(To be continued.)

The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1856.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES.—We have received several letters from our correspondents in the United States, containing a few interesting items, which we publish for the benefit of our readers.

Under date of April 2, Elder J. Taylor writes from New York, that on the day previous he had received a communication from brother Daniel Spencer, who informed him that he would be in New York on the 3rd. Elder Taylor expressed much satisfaction, that Elders Spencer and Van Cott had safely arrived in the United States, and he anticipated much pleasure in shaking hands with them once more on their way to the Valley. Knowing the integrity and business qualifications of these brethren, Elder Taylor anticipated that, with their assistance, and the aid already in the field, they should be able to move the Emigration, with satisfaction to us and to the First Presidency.

He states that he had made all preliminary arrangements, and the business was going on satisfactorily. He says, "I am very desirous, as I know you are, to see all things move right, and I think with the present auxiliary force, and the blessings of the Lord, we shall 'Put her through by day light.'" The railroad companies take the Saints to the western country at very reasonable rates.

We have a very cheering letter from Elders G. D. Grant and W. H. Kimball, who were at Iowa City, March 20. They state that the weather had been very bad, and the lakes and rivers were still a block of ice. Cattle had been offered at seventy dollars per pair, and they had purchased flour at \$3,20 per hundred, and the prospect was that, as spring opened, there would be a still further decrease in the price of provisions. They had contracted for 100 hand-carts of excellent quality, at about two guineas each. There were good prospects for work. Common labourers could get from three to four shillings per day, and mechanics' wages were in proportion. The principal men of the place were favourably disposed towards having the emigrating Saints pass through it.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude to our heavenly Father, for the manner, in which He is opening the way for His Saints to journey to Zion this season, and blessing His servants, both in this country and the United States, in carrying out the designs of the First Presidency. Under the wise and judicious management of Elders Taylor and Spencer, we believe that nothing will be wanting to make the hand-cart operation a successful one. In fact we feel an increased assurance, if possible, that none who have faith in it will be disappointed in the results.

President James H. Hart writes from St. Louis, March 25, that matters pertaining to the Church were prosperous in that section of country. He says, "There have been no difficulties or grumblers in regard to the financial affairs of the Church. The promptness with which they have been met, in the shape of dollars and cents, has given the greatest confidence and satisfaction, so much so, that it is passing current among the merchants of this city that, in monetary matters, Governor Young's name is as good as that of Lucas and Simonds, our staunchest bankers;" and some have said that they would prefer the former. We mention this, not because there has been any fear, on the part of the Saints, that Governor Young would fail on account of his extensive business transactions, but for the reason that some, who are ever watching for evil to happen to the Saints, have surmised that, from the reported scarcity of money in Utah, a financial crisis was approaching in their affairs. For the satisfaction of such, we will say that, should any occasion require it, the influence and resources of the whole Territory of Utah would combine to sustain Governor Young, in any measures which he might deem it wisdom to adopt for the general good of the Saints.

On every hand the political importance, financial resources, and general influence of the kingdom of God are rapidly increasing on the American continent. A rapid increase in numbers also marks its progress, both in that and other parts of the world.

We learn from the *Mormon*, of March 22, that the Danish and Italian Saints, in charge of Elder Peterson, arrived in St. Louis on the 1st of March. Elder Thomas left St. Louis on the 4th, after a visit of sixteen days, with a small company of brethren and sisters to assist the Texas emigration in the capacity of teamsters, herdsman, cooks, dairywomen, &c.

THE NEW EDITION OF THE HYMN BOOK.—With this Number of the *Star*, we are enabled to present to the Saints the eleventh edition of the *Hymn Book*, revised and enlarged. Since September 1851, the ninth edition of twenty-five thousand has been disposed of, and another edition of ten thousand has been published and forwarded to Utah. The present edition makes seventy-four thousand that have been published in England.

Unlike that of other religious bodies, the arena of the Saints' faith is continually increasing by the revelations of the more advanced doctrines of the Gospel. Therefore the adoption and practice of all the requirements of heaven, as they are handed out to the people of God, afford new themes, continually, for composition, song, and praise to the great Author and Finisher of their faith. In order in a measure to supply the growing demand of the Church, we have selected pieces from the varieties which are extant, and included the same in the present edition, believing that this will meet the expectation and wishes of the Saints, in the best way at present within our reach.

Although this edition of the *Hymn Book* is not altogether what we could wish it were, still we trust it will be found satisfactory for the present. We contemplate the time, with much pleasure, when the Church will be blessed with an entirely new collection, compiled, and sent forth from Zion, under the auspices of the First Presidency; that shall be in every way worthy of the high and holy profession of the Saints. The styles of binding for this edition will be essentially the same as those for that now in circulation, and the prices will remain the same.

DEPARTURES.—The ship *S. Curling* cleared on the 18th of April, and sailed for

Boston on the following day, with 707 souls of the Saints on board, under the Presidency of Elders Dan Jones, John Oakley, and David Grant.

In the Company were a goodly number of Elders, who have for some time been labouring in the ministry in this country. In addition to the Presidency of the Company, were the following ex-Presidents of Conferences—William Woodard, President of the Dorsetshire, Job Welling of the Southampton, Thomas D. Giles, of the Monmouthshire, John Parry, of the Denbighshire, John Price of the South Pembrokeshire, Thomas Morgan, of the Brecknockshire, William Lewis, of the Dyffryn Conway, and Anglesea, Thomas Jenkins, of the Caermarthenshire, and Thomas D. Evans, of the North Pembrokeshire Conferences. Elders John McDonald and William Butler, from the Valley, who have for a long time laboured faithfully in this country, also sailed with this Company. President Dan Jones has, during his mission in Wales, succeeded in emigrating about fourteen hundred of the Saints from the Principality, of whom about 550 accompany him on the *S. Curling*.

Elder Benjamin Hodgetts, who has been labouring in the Worcestershire Conference, has been released from his labours, in order to return home, sailed on the steamer *Arabia*, for Boston, on the 12th of April.

OUR ADDRESS CHANGED.—On the 18th April, as we returned from clearing the *S. Curling*, we were not a little surprised at the cabman insisting upon setting us down at some strange place, pretending it was “36, Islington”—the address which we had given him. After endeavouring to excuse what appeared to us his stupidity, we were reminded again how easy it is for a well-meaning person to be mistaken; for sure enough, while we were absent, some one, it is said the Town Council, had caused the number on our door to be changed from 36 to 42; it is said that similar alterations are made about town, to insure greater safety in the delivery of letters. We therefore request *Deseret News*, Utah; *Mormon*, New York; *Western Standard*, California; *Zion's Watchman*, Australia; *Udgorn Seion*, Wales; *Scandinavian Stjerne*, Denmark; and *Der Darsteller*, Switzerland; to be so kind as to inform their readers that our address, and that of the “Millennial Star” is

42, Islington, Liverpool.

ARRIVAL.—Elder Allan Findlay sailed from Bombay, East Indies, November 30, 1855, on the Ship *Henry Moore*, Captain Stewart, and arrived in Liverpool on the 17th of April, after a passage of four months and eighteen days.

Elder Findlay left England, on a mission to the East Indies, May 25, 1853; his labours have been arduous and difficult during that time, in connexion with those of his fellow labourers, in endeavouring to plant the Gospel in those countries. He is now on his way to Zion to reap the reward of the faithful.

Address to the Sisters.

Dear Sisters—It is now more than a year since I took up my pen to address you, and it is to respond to a call made by the Holy Spirit that this is elicited at the present time. I shall rely upon that good spirit which leads and guides into all truth, that the few remarks I may gather together with my pen may be for your edification and comfort, although written in much weakness.

I read with much pleasure the answers to my last address, and, although acknowledged by the writers to be written in much weakness, yet they are replete with instruction and wisdom, and were dictated by that Holy Spirit which is given to us, through obedience, to enable us to write and do all things to our edification.

This Spirit is a holy companion, sent to comfort us in these perilous times, to cheer the honest in heart and the oppressed, to assure them that the day is near when they will cease to toil for and be the builders up of the Gentiles, and to carry their burdens; when they will be able to enjoy the fruits of their own labour, and none dare to make them afraid.

This glorious companion enables us to gaze into the future, to see glories which the world with all its wisdom are ignorant of, and cannot comprehend. We are not of this world, although living in it, and though, as it were, enveloped in an atmosphere that would overpower and destroy us, yet, like the Hebrew children in the furnace, we may pass through the scorching fires unscathed. Let us always possess that calm and peaceful state of mind which, although tempests may rage around, and adverse circumstances try to overcome us, will yet enable us to stand firm and know that whatever is, is right, and that it will prove so in the end.

A Saint, skilled in tracing effects to their causes, will be able to prove that the patience and endurance which so nobly characterizes the people of God, is in a great measure developed in those who have been, and who will be, subjected to such trials. But in the midst of all, there is a promise—"Ye shall not be tempted above that ye are able to bear." Does not this language apply to us? Have we not obeyed the Gospel? Have we not forsaken all to follow Christ? Are not our names written in heaven? Are not angels our relations? Is there not a link that joins us in connexion with them? Do they not watch over us, bless us, and carry our prayers up to heaven's high councils? Jesus is our elder brother, and think you that he will allow his sisters to be tried more than they are able to bear? Oh no! God is the Father, not only of our spirits but also of our bodies. And what is more, He loves us, and therefore chastens us to try our love for Him, and

to humble us that we may be prepared for communion with Him.

I find my dear sisters that if we want the light of God's countenance to shine upon us, if we want angels and the spirits of the just to assist us, to bear us up, to ward off all the powers of darkness, and give us peace and consolation, we must pray for it. Neither God the eternal Father, Jesus Christ, nor angels will act for us unless we request them. They know all that is going on, but they will be called upon before they act, and that too by prayer. When trouble and darkness of mind press upon us, when the heavens seem as brass over our heads, when we feel as though we were alone in the dreadful conflict, though our hearts may swell with intense emotion, and words seem too hard to speak, that is the devil's hold of us, for as long as he can keep us from prayer so long will he hold us at his will. It is then that we want determination, and if we can only say "Father help me," it is heard. Swift flies the angel, and soon we find the prayer was not in vain. Jesus did not assist Peter when sinking until he said "Save Lord, or I perish." Angels were not sent unto Jesus until he prayed, and so great was his agony that he sweat drops of blood. But the prayer was heard. And are we not some of heavens favoured ones? Then let us rest assured if we pray for help we shall have it. Are we alone in this mighty struggle? Oh no! We have only our part to bear, and since we know that it is the will of God, let us not repine, but commit ourselves to His keeping, and He will direct our path. Paul tells us that we have need of patience, that after we have done the will of God we may obtain the promises.

Look at the present facts then my sisters, look at the past history, the future destiny of the Saints of God, contemplate for a moment the time when all our griefs shall flee away. Let us close our eyes, as it were, to these troubles, that our minds may luxuriate in glorious anticipations of the future destiny of the redeemed. But before we enjoy that rest, and wear those crowns of honour, we must fight and conquer the foes of our king. Then shake off the weight of care, the perplexity of circumstances, and cast your care upon the Lord, and He will sustain you. "He works in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform." Think of the glorious Gos-

pel, the building up of Zion, the gathering of the people of God, the redemption of the dead, the binding of satan, the resurrection and glorious exaltation of the just. Think of the time when we shall have finished our state of probation, when we shall be crowned with glory and honour in our Father's kingdom, when our foes and despisers shall bow down to us. While the earth is rocked to and fro, and while the wicked are gnashing their teeth with pain, we shall be safe on Zion's hill.

There are many glorious principles revolving in my mind while writing these few lines, but, knowing that you rejoice in the same, I shall only cite one of them. I mean that of trial by poverty, but understand me, I do not mean that poverty is an ultimate good, but it is good for the discipline of God's people.

I feel that I could bear a part with those of you who are passing through this trial, and that I would consider it a privilege, for by suffering we are to be made perfect, then while we are imperfect we must suffer, so it is for our good.

Poverty itself is an excellent teacher to us. Its bleak winds, and the sorrows it brings, tend to tone down our minds, and to unlock the sympathy of our hearts, and it teaches us some of the greatest lessons in human history. Who are the noble of this world? The poor. Who were the noble in the days of Jesus? The poor. Did not our Saviour mingle with poverty in the extreme, so much so that he had not where to lay his head? Were not his followers partakers of the same? No one likes to meet poverty, it looks best at a distance, yet it has been the greatest, and most powerful machine in the world, the most important things have been achieved by it, and the reason is obvious—"necessity is the mother of invention."

I have not yet been acquainted with this most necessary refiner, but as I have to pass through all things, that will come in its due time. How do I feel about it? Truly I feel when it shall come, to welcome it, shake hands with it, and say, do your work properly, and then retire as soon as you like. Would we not rather be poor for a short time and be in the kingdom of God, than dwell in the halls and palaces of the great of the earth, who are dead to their future state. Although they have ransacked all the elements of the world to em-

bellish and beautify those dwellings, which are temples to the idolatry of genius, yet purity and holiness retire from their magnificence and pomp, and looks upon everything however beautiful as a polluted image. Will the Saints, who have fully realized their position, fly from poverty to dwell in such places? If I were to refer to scripture we could find many passages where there are abundant blessings promised for the poor. Then we must be poor to obtain those blessings.

Thanks be to God, the rich oppressor will not have power to prevent us from receiving such, and from making for ourselves that Eden, yet on the earth, which the Prophets prophesied about, and which the ancient Saints could see in the distance; a time when the tried sons and daughters of God would find a home, there to repose in harmony after this age of confusion and disorder. Then, dear sisters, let us not shrink when in the furnace of poverty, but go through it firm, calm, and nobly, looking forward to the time for our reward. I know those trying circumstances curb our generous impulses and tend to repress the full development of noble actions. But that strong principle of nobility of soul never can be exterminated by poverty, want, or even punishment. There is the principle and what can annihilate it? The time will come when circumstances will tend to develop it more fully, and to prepare us for the society of the nobility of heaven, and to dwell in the celestial city of our God.

In conclusion let me add, would you have a name that will never perish? Would you have your name written in heaven? Would you have the white stone and the new name? Would you join the noblest of God's sons and daughters? Would you rise from the dead in the first resurrection, and reign with the Man of sorrows on the earth? Would you walk in the paradise of God, eat of the pot of manna, and of the tree of life? Would you share in the glories of redemption and salvation? Would you enjoy the approbation of heaven, the smiles of your heavenly Father? Would you be where there is no sickness, disease, or death; where tears are wiped from every eye; where the streets of the city are paved with gold, and God is the glory of it? Would you join the glorious company of all the good and great, of every land and clime, and with them dwell with Jesus Christ, the "King

of kings, and Lord of lords?" If we would become partakers of these inestimable blessings, and be for ever blest, then we must be firm and steadfast to our calling, cultivate a spirit of meekness, hold fast to that which is pure, good, and holy, and keep ourselves unspotted from the world;

then we shall be joint heirs with Jesus Christ, and reign with him for ever and ever on the earth; for says the Prophet, "Thy people shall be all righteous and inherit the earth."

M. A. C.

Home Correspondence.

SHEFFIELD, BRADFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE,
AND HULL CONFERENCES.

18, Dock street, Leeds,
April 12, 1856.

President F. D. Richards.

Dear Brother—With pleasure I sit down to make out a report of my labours in the Sheffield Pastorate. During the past quarter my labours have been directed to raising the means to emigrate the Elders who were going home, and in assisting, by my counsels, the Saints to dispose of their property to the best advantage, that their funds may be made to emigrate the greatest possible number. I feel that the Lord has blest me in so doing, for there are many going this year who, three months ago, thought that it would be impossible. My experience has ever taught me that faith and works united bring only blessings.

March 16. I attended a quarterly meeting of the Lincolnshire Conference, at Rise-gate. Elder Joseph Burrows presided. We met in a barn, the property of a farmer who has lately joined the Church. It was filled to overflowing. Some of the Saints present had walked twenty miles, so anxious were they to attend the Conference. The spirit of the work is increasing upon the people; and the blessings of the Almighty are upon the Elders to such a degree that, during the past quarter, they have added 61 persons to the Church by baptism.

In passing a dissenting chapel, close by the barn, I noticed a *bill* in the window, announcing that two charity sermons were to be delivered on the 16th by a couple of *ladies*, the proceeds of which were to be used in aiding the missionary society. I was anxious to hear one or both of these sermons, as lady preachers were quite a new thing to me, for I have never read in the Bible that the Lord called women to preach the Gospel. But as I *had been sent* to

preach, and as the people chose to hear me instead of the ladies, I was obliged to be a preacher, and I concluded, from the number that came to hear me, that the ladies had a thin congregation, which I afterwards learned was the case.

The financial affairs of the Lincolnshire Conference are in good condition, and from the spirited manner in which brother Burrows treads in the footsteps of his predecessor, I hope by the end of the year to see this ranked among the first of the British Conferences.

On Sunday, March 23, I attended a quarterly meeting of the Bradford Conference, in Leeds. Brother Joseph A. Young presided. Elders James A. Little, L. D. Rudd, John Oakley, and D. A. Curtis, of the Valley brethren, were present. There was a good attendance of Saints. All present seemed filled with the spirit of "Mormonism," and rejoiced at having been enabled to accomplish so much during the past quarter, and they evinced a firm determination to do more in the future.

President J. A. Young gave the Saints much good counsel, which caused a glow of satisfaction on the countenances of all present. He was well sustained by the brethren who spoke during the day. In the evening, brother J. A. Little gave us one of his plain, straightforward "Mormon" sermons, which filled every lover of truth with joy; gave us a foretaste of that *heaven* which we hope hereafter to realize, and caused all opposing spirits to quail beneath the power of the Holy Ghost which was with us. The Conference has furnished means to emigrate two Elders, besides liberally assisting their former Pastor. They were ready for any items of business which we felt disposed to advance. Thirty-eight persons have been added to its numbers since last Confer-

ence, and the prospects for the ensuing quarter are cheering.

March 30, I attended the Sheffield quarterly Conference. Elder Kerby presided. Being called upon by him, I presented the authorities of the Church to the Conference. This I always feel a pride in doing. The spirit of Zion was with the Saints, and every hand came up with such hearty good will that I almost forgot that I was down here in the smoky town of Sheffield.

The financial report of the Conference, as given by Elder Kerby, showed the accomplishment of a great work during the past quarter, and the foundation of an equally great one for the ensuing quarter. Although but 17 have been baptized during the past quarter, yet we hope to add many to the covenant people of the Lord during the present season of out-door preaching.

On Monday evening a special council of Elders was called. We had a good time. The Priesthood were united, and a strong determination was manifested by them to spread the Gospel, and build up the kingdom by every means which lies in their power.

The Hull Quarterly Conference was held on April 6. A good and willing spirit was manifested. After the works of the past quarter had been duly represented, I was requested to present the authorities of the Church. While doing so, I could not refrain from contemplating the fact, that 26 years ago that day, a hardy little band of six persons met together for the purpose of organizing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They pressed onward, and those Saints then before me were a few among the many thousands who are now witnesses to the triumph of right over might. How changed! Where there were units then, thousands now rejoice in the everlasting covenant. How has God's mighty power been made visible! In another 26 years the child will be a man, and in the valleys of the mountains a mighty nation—begotten in righteousness—will hold in allegiance the honest in heart, command the respect of foreign nations, and set an example which must be followed by a guilty, corrupt, and plague-smitten world.

Brother J. A. Little preached in the evening, on the kingdom of God, showing in what manner the universal *triumph of eternal truth* would be accomplished. This Conference, though small, has done well in assisting their former Pastor and President to emigrate. Fourteen persons have covenanted with the Lord in the waters of baptism since last Conference, and I think there are good prospects for numerous additions to the Church during the next summer.

We are emigrating from this Pastorate, this season, one Pastor, four Presidents, and seven Travelling Elders, which leaves us quite destitute of Elders who are in circumstances to allow of their being sent out to preach. If you could send us two or three Elders of experience, you would confer a great favour, as there is one needed for each Conference—Bradford, and Sheffield.

Local missions are established throughout the Pastorate. We give an experienced local Elder the Presidency of a mission for the season, with such assistance as the Branch councils agree upon in their meetings. We have deemed it the best plan, as it places the responsibility on one man, and he is so placed that he gets the credit for all he does. The Pastorate is in good condition generally—the Saints are increasing in faith and good works. The spirit of the Lord seems to be stirring up the pure minds of the honest by way of remembrance.

Although it will be rather lonesome to part with my cousin, Elder J. A. Young, yet I feel as though I should enjoy myself during the time I may be required to remain in this country.

The profound veneration and love which the Saints entertain towards yourself, counsellors, and the brethren who have presided over them during the past year, convinces me that the work will roll forth during the next year in my field of labour with renewed force and power—which may God grant.

I am, most affectionately and sincerely, your cousin, and brother in the New Covenant,

WILLIAM G. YOUNG.

I HAVE no respect for that self-boasting charity which neglects all objects of commiseration near and around it, but goes to the end of the earth in search of misery, for the purpose of talking about it.—*Mason*.